ABSTRACT

A serial point to point link that communicatively couples an integrated circuit (IC) device to another IC device is initialized by transferring a training sequence of symbols over the link. Registers of the IC device are programmed, to set a symbol data pattern and configure a lane transmitter for the link. A start bit in a register of the IC device is programmed, to request that the link be placed in a measurement mode. In this mode, the IC device instructs the other IC device to enter a loopback mode for the link. The IC device transmits a sequence of test symbols over the link and evaluates a loopback version of the sequence for errors. The sequence of test symbols have a data pattern, and are transmitted, as configured by the registers. Other embodiments are also described and claimed.